

given those terms by section 5531 of title 5, United States Code.

Officer means commissioned or warrant officer.

Uniformed services means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service.

[44 FR 44814, July 31, 1979, as amended at 60 FR 67287, Dec. 29, 1995]

§ 550.603 Administrative responsibilities.

(a) *Uniformed services pay centers.* Uniformed services pay centers are responsible for determining the amount of military retired or retainer pay to be withheld.

(b) *Employing agencies.* (1) Federal agencies are responsible for notifying the appropriate uniformed service pay center concerning the Federal civilian pay of retired members according to instructions provided in the Federal Personnel Manual.

(2) If an agency believes that exception to the reduction in retired or retainer pay required by section 5532 of title 5, United States Code, is justified in an individual case based on an emergency posing direct and immediate threat to life or property or on exceptional difficulty in recruiting or retaining a qualified candidate for a position, the agency may submit a request to OPM or approve an exception under delegated authority from OPM as provided in part 553 of this chapter. The agency is responsible for notifying the appropriate uniformed service finance center of any approved exception.

[44 FR 44815, July 31, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 56 FR 6206, Feb. 14, 1991]

Subpart G—Severance Pay

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5595; E.O. 11257, 3 CFR, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 357.

SOURCE: 55 FR 6593, Feb. 26, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 550.701 Introduction.

This subpart contains regulations of the Office of Personnel Management to implement the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5595. These regulations authorize severance pay for employees who are invol-

untarily separated from Federal service and who meet other conditions of eligibility.

§ 550.702 Coverage.

Except as provided in 5 U.S.C. 5595(a)(2) (i) through (viii), this subpart applies to each full-time or part-time employee; that is, an employee with a regularly scheduled tour of duty who is serving under a qualifying appointment, as defined in § 550.703.

§ 550.703 Definitions.

In this subpart:

Agency means an agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5595(a)(1), except the government of the District of Columbia.

Commuting area means the geographic area that normally is considered one area for employment purposes. It includes any population center (or two or more neighboring ones) and the surrounding localities where people live and reasonably can be expected to travel back and forth daily to work.

Employee means an employee as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5595(a)(2), except an individual employed by the government of the District of Columbia.

Immediate annuity means—

(a) A recurring benefit payable under a Federal civilian or military retirement system that begins to accrue within 1 month after separation; or

(b) An annuity under § 842.204(a)(1) of this chapter for which the commencing date has been postponed under § 842.204(c) of this chapter.

Inefficiency means unacceptable performance or conduct that leads to a separation under part 432 or 752 of this chapter or an equivalent procedure.

Involuntary separation means a separation initiated by an agency against the employee's will and without his or her consent for reasons other than inefficiency, including a separation resulting from the expiration of a time-limited appointment effected within 3 calendar days after separation from a qualifying appointment. In addition, when an employee is separated because he or she declines to accept reassignment outside the commuting area, the separation is "involuntary" if the employee's position description or other written agreement does not provide for